The Nexus of Numismatics in Nebraska

The Nebraska Numismatic Association

Journal

The Official publication of the
Nebraska Numismatic Association

April / May / June 2011

Volume 55 Issue 2

Fontenelle Bank of Bellevue,
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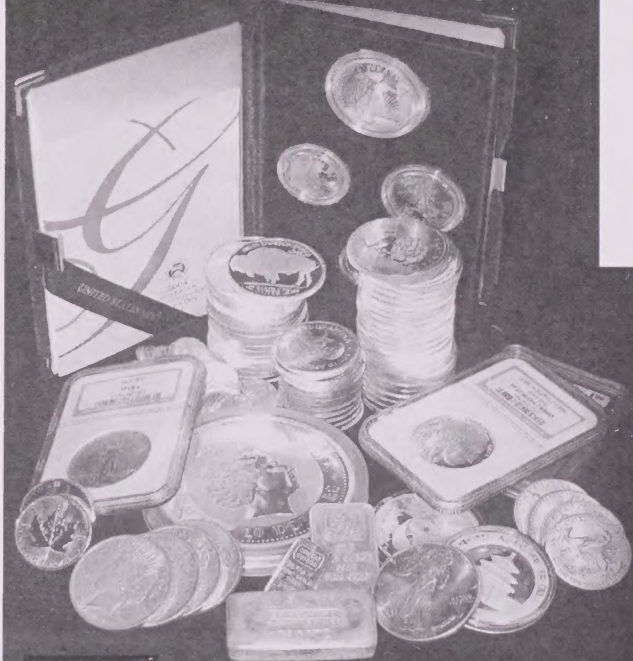

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Journal

The Official Publication of the N.N.A.

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- Dec. 1-for Jan/Feb/March issue
- Mar. 1 - for April/May/June issue
- June 1 - for July/Aug/Sept issue
- Sept. 1 - for Oct/Nov/Dec issue

Upcoming

Shows and Events

52nd Annual

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Our 52nd Annual Show

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"My 2 Cents"

Mitch Ernst
President / Editor

Spring is when you feel like whistling even with a shoe full of slush.

~Doug Larson

It's Spring! At least that's what the calendar says. As I write this, I'm looking out at 3 inches of snow blanketing everything outside my window, ergo the quote above. It's pretty, but hey, old man winter, let's move on already!

Sometimes our hobby is like Spring. Just when you get your hopes up about finding something, you get a shoe full of slush, but we can still feel like whistling knowing there are other opportunities before us.

Speaking of opportunities, we have opportunities galore that await us here in Nebraska. Show fliers for the Fremont Coin Club Show (see opposite page) and a new show in Kearney (page 27) as well as news on a new Wooden Nickel release by Fremont Coin Club and officer elections for both SAC/Midwest and Lincoln Numismatic Association on pages 11 & 20. Wahoo Coin Club is celebrating it's 50th Anniversary this year and they've gone "back to the future" by electing the club's very first President to be their President again 50 years later. You can find information about that on page 8.

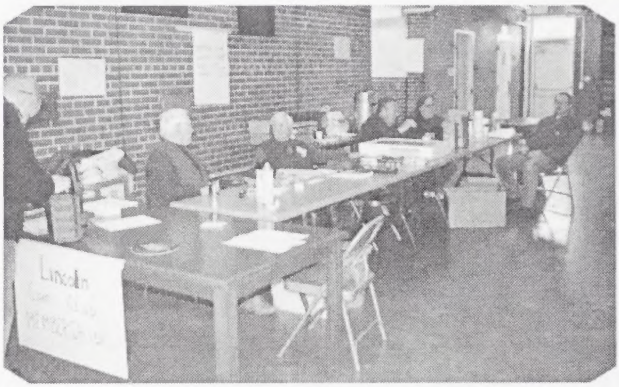
In case you missed it, there is a pictorial recap of the Lincoln Coin Club Show which was held March 12 & 13 on pages 4 & 5.

Pages 12 thru 16 gives us a look into the historical significance of The Fontenelle Bank, the states oldest commercial building.

Also, here's a quick reminder. If your membership # is highlighted in yellow on your mailing label, your dues are due at the remarkable rate of only $5 per year or 5 years for $20.

-Mitch

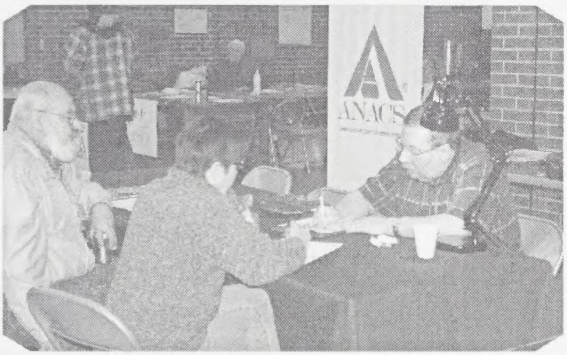
Show Scrapbook
Lincoln Coin Club Annual Show
March 12 & 13, 2011



Dedicated members, good venue and busy bourse help make the 2011 Lincoln Coin Club Annual show a success!

The "Free Coins for Kids" table was a popular stop for families during the show

Show Scrapbook
Lincoln Coin Club Annual Show
...continued



The NNA table provided state club information and materials to interested passers-by during the two day event.

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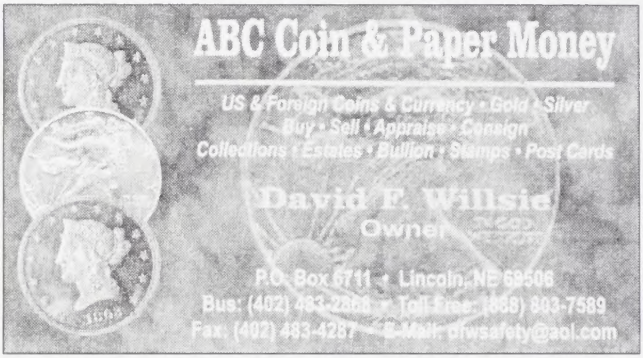

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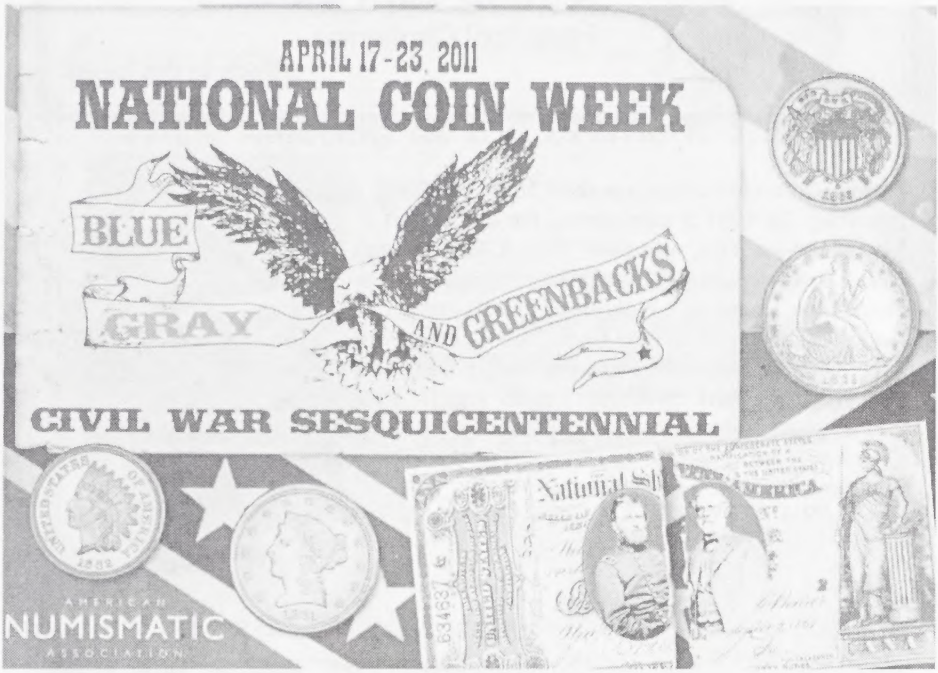
National Events

National Coin Week

April 17-23 Details page 18



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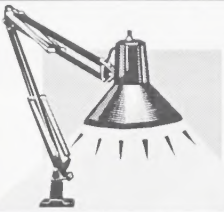

Club Spotlight!

Wahoo Coin Club

Historical Challenge...

...Back to the future

Wahoo Coin club celebrates their 50th Anniversary this year. In 1961 5 men started the club: Hans & Lee Andresen, Gus Andresen, Walt Carlstrom and Evald Brodd. Lee Andresen was chosen to be the club's first President. Now in 2011, the same Lee Andresen, an active Wahoo Coin Club member, will once again be the club's President during the club's 50th Anniversary.

Can any other coin club in Nebraska or the United States match this accomplishment?

Above:
Bob Sloup hands the gavel to Lee Andresen

Current Officers: L to R
Carol Jasa / Sec., John Veach / Treas., Lee Andresen/ Pres., and Bob Sloup Vice Pres.

Everyone enjoyed a chili supper before the meeting

Upcoming

Nebraska Numismatic Association Events

NNA Meeting at the Fremont Show May 22nd, **2 pm**!

In order to give more opportunity to NNA members to attend a meeting, give input and enjoy some numismatic camaraderie, we are going to begin having more than one meeting per year. The first meeting of 2011 will be held at the Fremont Show on May 22nd at 2 pm in the Community Room in the City Auditorium adjacent to the bourse.

If you're in Fremont for the show, this will be your chance to have your say about the NNA.

Hope to see you there!

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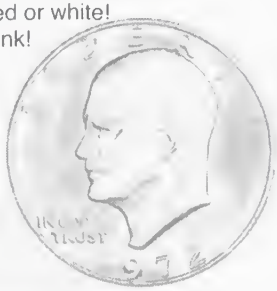

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YN Corner

-Patrick Milliken (OCC YN Director / NNA 1st V.P.)

Fun Facts about The Statue Of Liberty and Ellis Island

Fun Facts:

The Statue Of Liberty's real name is "Liberty Enlightning The World".

Did You Know:

The island on which The Statue Of Liberty sits is called Liberty Island, but, until 1956, it was called Bedloe's Island.

The ownership of Ellis Island (which forms part of the basis for the 1986 Ellis Island/Statue Of Liberty commemorative half dollar and silver dollar) was not finally settled until 1998!

Due to a complicated "double border", parts of Ellis Island belong to New York and parts belong to New Jersey. This double border arrangement stems back to an 1833 agreement between the two states.

Nebraska Club News & Events

More on page 20

The Fremont Coin Club issues two wooden Nickels to commemorate its 2011 Coin Show.

One has black & purple ink and the other green and black ink. For this year's issue we once again selected the Nebraska State Quarter to be the central theme of the wood with the reverse displaying "52nd Annual Coin Show – Fremont Coin Club – May 22nd Year 2011, City Auditorium, Fremont NE".

Woods may be purchased for 50 cents each or both colors for a $1.00. Send your payment in a Self Addresses Stamped Envelope to:

William H. Passick, 1253 East 19th St., Fremont NE 68025.

Below are additional woods from previous years that are still available;

The following woods are $1.00 each and when there gone that's it. They are listed by date, color and quantity still on hand. 1999 Green 1, Black 4; 2000 Red 2, Blue 2; 2006 Blue 1, Red 1; & 1995 Black 5, Green 1.

Woods still available for .40 cents each are as follows. 2005 Type #1 Green 15; 2005 Type #2 Green 19; 2002 Brown 12, Black 10; 1998 Type # 1 Black 16; 1974 Black 17; 1977 Black 10; 1979 Black 14.

The following are two type woods at .40 cents each or .80 cents for both; 1980, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 88, 89, 90, 91,92, 94, 97, 98, 2001, 04, 09 & 10.

The following are two type Error woods at 25 cents each or 50 cents for both; 2001, Black & Gold with Freemont; 1995, Black & Green with April 30th; 1993, Black & Blue with 33rd show.

Once again; Woods may be purchased by sending your payment in a Self Addresses Stamped Envelope to: William H. Passick, 1253 East 19th St., Fremont NE 68025.

SAC/Midwest Coin Club elects new officers

At the January 4th, 2011 meeting of the SAC/Midwest Coin Club the following members were elected to office.

President - Ryan Pravecek
V.P. - Mike Herzog
V.P. - Mark Sempek
Treasurer - Wayne Woodard
Secretary - Jerry Bentzinger

SAC/Midwest Coin Club meets the first Tuesday of each month at the Denny's located at 84th & I-80 in Omaha at 7:00 pm.

Fontenelle Bank of Bellevue, Nebraska's Oldest Commercial Building

By Jim McKee
-Originally appeared in edited form in the **Lincoln Journal Star**

When the Nebraska territory formed in 1854 banks were on the top of the legislature's thoughts when they defined the first criminal code which specifically stated that "participating in any form of banking [is punishable] by imprisonment in the county jail not exceeding one year or by a fine of not less than $1,000." At the same time banking proved to be a necessity if any economy outside of a simple barter system was to exist. Thus the first corporation granted in Nebraska was to the Western Fire & Marine Insurance Co. of Omaha, purely a sham bank whose only right was to "receive deposits and issue certificates thereof."

A few months after the "insurance company" was chartered, in December of 1855, Peter Sarpy of Bellevue, General L. L. Bowen of Elgin, Illinois and six other men applied for a banking charter from the territorial legislature. Their Fontenelle Bank of Bellevue was one of 12 banking applicants entered on the same date. Over the strong objections of J. Sterling Morton, their bank, and

those of four others were granted charters.

In 1856 a two-story building of handmade bricks was completed on the northwest corner of Mission and Main Streets. The Transitional Greek Revival-Italianate rectangular building faced Main Street with an exterior staircase leading to the second floor on the northwest corner of the structure, facing west. The banking rooms and vault were on the first floor.

The bank's actual 25 year charter was dated January 18, 1856, allowed up to $500,000 of capital stock and was permitted to open as soon as $50,000 had been subscribed and paid in. Before the bank had been in existence a year it was sold to Greene, Ware & Co. of Cedar Rapids, Iowa with General Bowen personally profiting $3,000.

Almost at once Greene & Ware commenced printing notes on the bank in the denominations of $1, $2, $3, $5 and $10 all of which, including the $3 bills were fairly common in the period. Because the notes were not secured by gold

(Continued on page 14)

or silver, they circulated only so long as public confidence in the bank existed. Unfortunately their timing left a great deal to be desired as 1857 proved to be a year of nation-wide depression.

Sadly the Fontenelle Bank of Bellevue and virtually all of the territory's fledgling financial institutions failed within months. Banking historian A. G. Warner was quick to point out that the bank was not to be considered a home-owned institution but the result was the same. Reports of the amount of outstanding banknotes varied from $35,000 as reported by the Dakota City *Herald* on September 10, 1859 to $150,000 noted in the Nebraska City *News* June 12, 1858. The Nebraska City paper also stated that this and other bank failures was proof that "corporations have no souls."

(Continued on page 15)

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It is an ill wind that blows no good however and just as the bank failure occurred, the territorial legislature created Sarpy County to correct an inequity in representation.

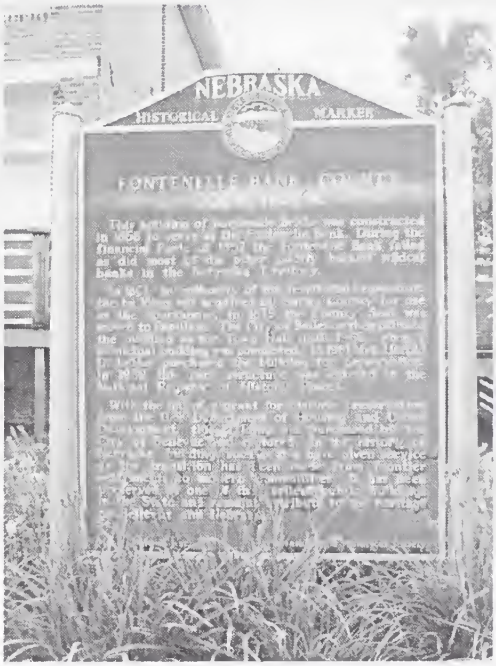
With the new county seat located in Bellevue, the bank building proved an excellent courthouse with the upstairs converted to a courtroom. On January 30, 1861 Sarpy County purchased the old bank building and two adjacent lots for $1,500. Interestingly the committee in charge of the sale was headed by General Bowen. As county courthouse the upper floor was also used as a meeting room, dance hall and opera house.

An election in 1875 relocated the Sarpy County seat to Papillion allowing the county to rent the bank cum courthouse to Bellevue for use as a city hall. 50 years later, in 1925, the city bought the building for $600. In 1959 Bellevue built a new city hall and it looked as if the old building would be razed. In order to save the structure, Mrs. Harold LeMar bought it the following year for

(Continued on page 16)

$10,000 and rented it out to a variety of retail shops. The City of Bellevue realized it had allowed a historic relic to slip away and repurchased the building in 1972 for its appraised value of $36,000.

Without a vast expenditure, the building was restored around the extant vault as its original use as a bank. Today what is undoubtedly the oldest commercial structure in Nebraska is on the National Register of Historic Buildings, looking almost exactly as it did in 1856, the only minor alterations being a new roof line and front steps.



That was just one of many fascinating stories that could be told about coins, currency and collectors in connection with the State of Nebraska. Do you have a story that you would like to tell? We would like to hear it.

Send your submissions to:
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Email: nuMitchmatist@msn.com

For inclusion in the Journal in time for your show. Thank you!

National Events

National Coin Week April 17-23

Blue, Gray and Greenbacks

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Theme of annual ANA event marks the 150th anniversary of the American Civil War.

[Colorado Springs, CO] "Blue, Gray and Greenbacks: Money of the Civil War" has been selected as the theme of the ANA's 88th annual National Coin Week (NCW), to be observed April 17-23, 2011. This celebration of coinage and paper currency will commemorate the sesquicentennial of the American Civil War, which began on April 12, 1861, when Confederate artillery fired upon Fort Sumter, South Carolina. The polictial, economical and numismatic ramifications of the conflict were profound.

Collectors are invited to help the ANA celebrate National Coin Week by participating in a variety of fun and educational activities. A treasure hunt with weekly clues will be held in the form of an online tour of battlefields and other important sites. Clubs can participate in a competition in March and April that tests their knowledge of Civil War numismatics. Students across the country are encouraged to create their own coin and note designs that capture the great American conflict and its leaders. Numismatic prizes will be awarded for the best NCW promotion by individuals, clubs and students.

Resources will be available on the ANA website (www.money.org), including a sample press release, procalmations, an interactive flier and online games. During National Coin Week, the Edward C. Rochette Money Museum, which features a Civil War exhibit in the mail gallery, will offer reduced admission and special events for children.

To find out how you, your children or your coin club can get involved in National Coin Week 2011, phone 719-484-9814, email ncw@money.org, or visit the ANA online at www.money.org.

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Nebraska Club News & Events

Continued from page 11

New officers for Lincoln Numismatic Society

At the March 3rd, 2011 meeting of the Lincoln Numismatic Society, the following members were elected to office.

President - David Willsie
V.P. - Brian Owens
Secretary/Treasurer - Jim Bulmer

The Lincoln Numismatic Society meets the first Thursday of each month at the Hampton Inn, Old Cheney Rd and Hwy 2 in Lincoln @ 7:30 pm.

Does your club have a recognition, award or event it would like to have published? Send a report and pictures to Mitch Ernst / Editor NNA Journal P.O. Box 24913 Omaha, NE 68124 or email : NNA_Journal@msn.com

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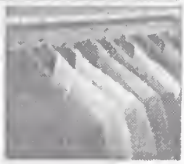

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Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Sunday 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

*Dealer Set up: Friday 3:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

*Tables $21.00 for both days

$3.00 ADMISSION

For information and reservations contact:

Larry Johnson

46630 Litchfield Road

Litchfield , Nebraska 68852

phone: 308-446-2351

Nebraska Numismatic Events 2011 State Coin Show Calendar

2011 Omaha Monthly Collectors Show -
Jan. 16, Feb. 20, March 20, April 10,
May 15, June 19, July 17, Aug. 21, Sept. 18,
Oct. 16, Nov. 20, Dec. 18

Fremont Coin Club - May 22, 2011
(see flier pg. 2)

Lincoln Numismatic Society - No Date Set

Wyo-braska Show / Gering - Sept. 24, 2011

National Token Show / Omaha -Sept. 3 & 4
(see flier pg. 24)

Omaha Coin Club Show/ NNA Convention
-Oct. 22 & 23

- The 2011 NNA Convention will be held in conjunction with the Omaha Coin Club Show.

If you would like information on table availability and cost, please contact the show Chairman,
Ron Matson
P.O. Box 460953
Papillion, NE 68046
402-895-7715
email: Qualitycoins@aol.com

Central States Numismatic Society

72nd Anniversary Convention

Rosemont, IL

Donald E. Stephens Convention Center

April 27 - 30, 2011

Chicago, a Central States City

- Educational Exhibits
- 250 Booth Bourse Area
- Heritage Coin Signature Sale
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- Educational Programs
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Bourse Information: Jerry Lebo
(574) 753-2489 • jclebo@frontier.com

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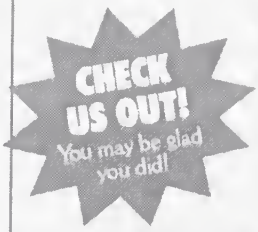

CENTRAL STATES NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

invites you to join their 2,300 members and to support the mid west's respected regional numismatic organization. Founded in 1939, CSNS has been serving numismatics and promoting the education of collectors for 70 years!

For membership questions,
contact Secretary Jerry Lebo,
P.O. Box 841
Logansport, IN 46947
email: jclebo@verizon.net

For questions about The Centinel,
contact Gerald Tebben, Editor
P.O. Box 82125
Columbus, OH 43202
email: gtebben@columbus.rr.com

Coin & Stamp Show
April 15-16, 2011
Salina, Kansas

- Friday-3 to 8 p.m.
- Saturday-9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Free Admission
- Food • Free Parking
- Security Provided

BUY-SELL-TRADE-SHOW

Reservation Deadline: April 4, 2011

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RESERVATION FORM

Nebraska Numismatic Association

Club Directory - Meeting times and locations

Fremont - Fremont Coin Club, 3rd Saturday, The Evangelical Free Church Social Hall, 20th & Lincoln Streets, 7:30 pm.

Grand Island - Grand Island Coin Club, No longer meeting

Lincoln - Lincoln Coin Club, 2nd Thursday, Hampton Inn, Old Cheney Road and Hwy. 2, 7:30 pm.

Lincoln - Lincoln Numismatic Society, 1st Thursday, Hampton Inn, Old Cheney road and Hwy 2, 7:30 pm.

Nebraska City - Nebraska City Coin Club, 4th Tuesday, @ the Burger King S 77 Hwy, 7:00 pm

North Platte - Platte Valley Coin Club, No current information on club's existence or meeting location is available

Omaha - Omaha Coin Club, 3rd Friday, Douglas/Sarpy County Extension Office, 8015 West Center Road. 7:30 pm. YN's 7:00 pm.

Omaha - SAC/Midwest Coin Club, 1st Tuesday, Denny's Restaurant, 84th & I-80, 7:00 pm.

South Sioux City - Siouxland Coin Club, write for information, 901 S. Cecelia, Sioux City, Iowa, 51106

Seward - Nebraska tokens Collectors Club, 2nd Sunday, Cattle National Bank, 2:00 pm.

Wahoo - Wahoo Coin Club, 1st Saturday, Saunders County Historical Museum, 240 N. Walnut, 8:00 pm.

→Not responsible for invalid information ←

If you have corrections or addtions please submit them in writing to:
Mitch Ernst / NNA Journal editor : P.O. Box 24913 : Omaha, NE 68124
email: nuMitchmatist@msn.com

NNA Member News

Picture taken at the 1966 NNA banquet - courtesy Jim McKee

Elmer Nelson

Elmer Gustav Nelson was born March 13, 1922 to parents who immigrated to the United States in 1916. One of six children, Elmer grew up in Nebraska, was in the Signal Corps during WWII, then working as an engineer for radio station KFOR in Lincoln. Working for the corporation which owned KFOR, Elmer met co-worker Bonnie Strayer and they were married in 1945. Elmer then worked briefly in their new TV station before being relocated to KRGI in Grand Island, still working for the Stuart Corporation. Still a radio engineer the Nelsons moved to Sutherland, Nebraska where Elmer retired in 1988.

On May 8, 1951 Elmer, John J. Gabarron (the first librarian for the A.N.A. and its longtime Sargent-At-Arms) and Jim Cotton met at a Lincoln bookstore/coin shop and formed the Lincoln Coin Club. In 1953 Elmer was elected president of the Lincoln Coin Club. Elmer was the leading force in December of 1955 when the Lincoln Coin Club invited coin collectors from the entire state, and particularly from Omaha, to join them at their annual Christmas party. At that gathering, again at Elmer's direction, they formed the Nebraska Numismatic Association. Elmer served as the N.N.A.'s Secretary/Treasurer for many years and acted as its Convention Chairman even after retiring as an officer. After moving to Grand Island Elmer became active in their coin club and worked to initiate several other clubs in central and western Nebraska. He was an active collector of ancients, currency and odd and curious monies of the world as well as Indian artifacts.

Elmer passed away on Sunday, February 20, 2011 at Genoa, Nebraska at 88.

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